



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at
<<http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>>.

Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Teaching and Learning in a Flexible Environment

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
FET	4640	62757	1, 2007	WEB	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOEDU
Academic org:	FOE003
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070109

STAFFING

Examiner: Mark Tyler

Moderator: Kaye Cleary

OTHER REQUISITES

Students cannot gain credit for the same program for FET3210 and FET4640. As the assessments in this course are context-based, it is necessary that participants have a sound appreciation of or access to an actual instructional situation in a formal education, community or industry setting. State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland are required to possess a current suitability card (Blue Card). (See "Other Requirements" for further information.) Also see: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html>.

RATIONALE

This course is intended to introduce participants to the concepts and practices of flexible and distributive learning. Engagement with the course is intended to be of both theoretical and practical use to those involved in the post-compulsory education and training environment, as well as industry-based training personnel. The course may also have some application for those who work in areas such as 'VET' in schools. The course would be deemed most valuable for those involved in existing flexible delivery programs, or people working in contexts who are looking to implement flexible and distributive learning initiatives.

SYNOPSIS

Flexible and distributive learning is fast becoming a key agenda of those involved in education and training contexts. Initially this course introduces the notion of flexible and distributive learning through a pathway of historical investigation. This investigation surveys the emergence of the flexible and distributive trend and attempts to understand the rationale and reasons for pursuit of the emerging agenda. Participants will identify the key elements, which underpin a successful flexible and distributive delivery agenda, and analyse potential barriers and opportunities within their workplace. Identifying and integrating appropriate media are important principles in flexible and distributive environments. This course investigates key considerations involved in determining

the merit of various media and follows on to explore and investigate issues of planning and implementing a flexible and distributive learning initiative. NOTES: 1. This course (FET4640) is available through INTERNET DELIVERY ONLY. There are NO print materials for this course. 2. For details of the technical requirements and accessing Internet study materials, please consult the following URL: <http://usqconnect.usq.edu.au> . Students cannot gain credit for the same program for FET3210 (USQ81221) and FET4640 (USQ81222).

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the emergence of flexible and distributive learning , as well as contemporary developments, issues and practices (Assignment 1)
2. identify and analyse the key principles and elements which apply to implementing flexible and distributive learning in a given context, including potential barriers and affordances (Assignments 1 and 2)
3. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the range of flexible learning tools, media and applications relevant to your instructional context (Ass 1 and 2) Apply this knowledge and understanding to the planning, construction and implmentation of a flexible learning initiative for your instructional context.
4. within a specific educational context, identify and analyse the potential barriers to implementing and sustaining flexible and distributive learning (Assignment 2)
5. with consideration of contextual circumstance, evaluate appropriateness and utility of various communication media (Assignments 1 and 2)
6. plan a flexible and distributive initiative for implementation (Assignment 2).

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Historical and emerging perspectives and issues	10.00
2.	Principles and elements of flexible and distributed learning	15.00
3.	Tools, media and communication technologies	35.00
4.	Planning and implementing a flexible learning initiative.	40.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

There is are no prescribed texts in this course.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	60.00
Directed Study	105.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
FLEX DEL DEFINITION & O'VIEW	999.00	40.00	27 Apr 2007 (see note 1)
FLEX DEL INITIATIVE	999.00	60.00	22 Jul 2007 (see note 2)

NOTES

1. The examiner will advise the due dates for all assessment items. Letter grades will be used in this course and displayed in the notes section.
2. Students will require access to tools, media and technologies for the development and implementation of a flexible delivery initiative in their instructional context.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
In this course, if students are more than two weeks late with the submission of any assessment task, they are required to contact the course examiner, who may, at his/her discretion, grant a further extension.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must complete and submit all of the summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks or grades obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.

- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner.
- 2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.
- 3 In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 4 All assessment items must be submitted using the official course online drop box facility. It is recommended that assignment submissions be constructed in a .doc (MS Word) format. The online drop box facility can manoeuvre .doc files easily, and your course leader or examiner is better able to provide precise and constructive feedback through .doc files.
- 5 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, the due date for the assignment will be the next working day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.
- 6 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.
- 7 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete - Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 8 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.
- 9 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.
- 10 Summative assessment items will receive one of the following letter grades: HD+,HD,HD-, A+,A,A-,B+,B,B-,C+,C,C-,F or IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up). Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students enrolling in WEB courses MUST have ongoing convenient and reliable access to the Internet in order to access course materials and participate in activities that will affect assessment. The levels of equipment required may change from time to time, with the most recent specification listed at <http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/computingstandards/default.htm>. You can check whether your computer system meets these requirements from USQAssist (<http://usqassist.usq.edu.au/>).
 - 2 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.
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